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ANNUAL
FORUM

POWER AND
PASSION:
CULTURE CHANGE
THROUGH
CONSUMER
ENGAGEMENT
AND
PARTNERSHIPS

THURSDAY
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RYDGES SOUTHBANK
TOWNSVILLE

PARTNERSHIPS · LEADERSHIP · ENGAGEMENT

Welcome to Country, Professor Gracelyn Smallwood

GRACELYN SMALLWOOD: Thank you Mr Chairman. Quite nervous with you giving my background. But I'd sincerely like to thank the Health Consumers Queensland, all their representatives for giving me honour and privilege for not only welcoming you today here on behalf of the two traditional owner groups both individual and Wulgurukaba and the nation but to allow me to give five to ten minutes of a quick speech of my 50 years in the health system, I started my nursing training at the old hospital in 1967 and a lot of my work has been advocacy not just for first nations peoples but for health consumers because we're all health consumers. I would like to say welcome in the Wulgurukaba language. I was born in Townsville and 66 and a few months, and my life expectancy was 55 so I live every day singing Patsy Clyne as it's my last but still advocating. That carpet snake we call - that is the Wulgurukaba nations totem and very sacred to first nations peoples in this area and the totem there of the shooting star is the Bindal Wulgurukaba nations really sacred space and I'm sure as consumers by now we would know the significance of welcome to countries and also our totem being very sacred. I'm actually here today not just as I said to say welcome but just to give a few words and I was privileged appointed to the hospital board in Townsville and I believe that hospital health service boards are going places in this state and I'd like to sincerely thank the Labor Government for implementing health consumers and hopefully it will be ongoing. As health consumers are the pivotal and the key to how we're going to close the gap of every consumer. Should there be a change of Government, we hope that all Governments that take on the political portfolio will continue to fund health consumers and today we could win the battle of running the country and everyone's health would be 100% with all this power and passion in this room. The only thing - there's a couple of quick things because I know we have a very tight schedule - is that

we have to all come together in a very collaborative partnership approach. Government, non-Government and most importantly the private corporate sector, we're missing a little bit there with the private sector and once everyone comes together, we can move mountains. I'd also like to say that there needs to be more resources for service delivery for the consumers and as we all know the indigenous health is not closing but also the gap in a lot of other areas in health is not closing and it's not rocket science, it can happen and I was privileged some 25 years ago or 20 years ago to work in the State tripartite forum under the Goss Government and it was here that we promoted a tripartite approach and people all came from a whole multicultural facet, the right people were being employed that had good community connections and most importantly positive community connections with the consumers. So I'd like to say thank you very much and I see all the powerful people that are presenting today, you get a PhD thesis out of these people that are presenting. I believe that the conference that I spoke at two weeks ago got about 500,000 hits and I didn't realise, I thought it was just internal with the health department, but you can access that because it actually talks about how I believe and so do many of my indigenous peoples believe that we can close the gap if we all come together in a tripartite approach, not paternalism, not equality, it's about equity and once that happens, we will all be able to close the gap and I really look forward to my position on the Townsville Hospital board and my beautiful colleagues that I work with, all have differences of opinion but we all have the one goal, and that's to close the gap for every consumer that crosses our path in Townsville. God bless you all.

APPLAUSE

MARK TUCKER-EVANS: Thank you very much Gracelyn. Before we get under way there are a few house keeping things that I need to remind you of - the rest rooms are down this end of the foyer area. There are emergency exits and they're clearly marked and if people need some assistance to exit the building, what I might do is let you get our Health Consumers Queensland team to identify themselves and together with the staff we'll assist you if you need it so can I ask the Health Consumers Queensland staff just

to identify themselves with their hands. If you need assistance just call out, for those who have their luggage and weren't able to store it at the hotels that you were staying at, if you can actually store your luggage around the walls, so that we cannot block up the exit ways in any way and we do have some arrangements to get you to the airport if you're flying out of here, so I'll talk about those in a minute. We do have some photographers and we recognise that not everybody likes having their photograph taken, so if you don't like having your photograph taken, if you can just let our team know, we'll put a red dot and any photographs that actually have captured you we certainly won't use, but or you can just ask the photographer not to take your photograph. We will also be videoing today's events and we'll make those available on our website. For this reason, it's important for you to ask that questions into the microphone which will be roving, well microphone won't be, it will a staff person carrying it to take it around, and we also have a hearing loop and also real time captioning so like to thank Dean for doing the real time captioning today. I promise not to use any large words or mispronounce anything for Dean's sake. If you have any specific dietary requirements for morning tea or lunch, they are clearly marked so you can advise our team and there's water stations also available in the foyer. We will be joined by the Minister just after lunch. And we're just making some arrangements at the moment about how we accommodate that. In reflection for those people here last night, we didn't think that arrangement worked terribly well, there was quite a lot of noise while the speakers were going through their experiences. There is a little bit of a logistic issue where before lunch we're going to split this room into two, so - I'm just working with the facility to bring it back together and then split it again so ensure that we can have the Minister clearly heard by everybody. You will recall that in fact the Minister launched the advancing health 2026 strategy last year at our forum and he'll give an update on that, it is important that we all come back together. For all those guests flying out on the 4:50 flight there will be taxis at the front of the hotel at 3:20 is you can get to the airport on time. We do apologise to last speakers of those sessions, please don take it as rudeness that people can't join your talk but we do recognise that there's people do need to get to the airport. There are probably too many people that I should go through to

mention so I won't, can I just thank you all those people who got the information pods outside, thank you to everybody who has committed abstracts, from all over Queensland, there was a challenge to Lynor in terms of the speaking spots do. We appreciate the speakers who have made time to come together and put your presentations together. We thank the metro South hospital and health service for providing the hearing loop system, thank you also to Queensland health for providing us with the captioning services, like Dean and Tina, thank you to network members for volunteering their time all day Friday to collate the program packs on your table and for also inserting the names into the tags. Thank you to the consumers and carers on our annual forum reference group for their hard work in putting this program together, so Margaret from Townsville, Robin from Townsville, Daniel Flynn from Townsville, Sue Oliver, Elizabeth Miller from metro South, we have packs in front of you with resources including advise, consumer and community engagement framework as well as an evaluation form. Please make sure that you fill those in before you leave and just leave them at the front desk. Your feedback is really important to us, this is the second forum we intend to do another one next year and there's been strong lobbying from Rockhampton, Cairns, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and others for the next venue, so it's going to be up to you. I'm conscious that I'm now eating into the next session so I'd like to invite Ms Sanderson to facilitate the next session so thank you.